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contract, which has rendered them part of the Devil's possession, and contrive how they may obliterate that reproach, and disentangle their mortgaged souls. *Decay of Piety.*

These simple ideas, the understanding can no more refuse to have, or alter, or blot them out, than a mirror can refuse, alter, or obliterate the images, which the objects set before it produce. *Locke.*

OBLETATION. *n. f.* [obliteratio, Latin.] Effacement; extinction.

Considering the casualties of wars, transigrations, especially that of the general flood, there might probably be an obliteration of all those monuments of antiquity that ages precedent at some time have yielded. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

OBLIVION. *n. f.* [oblivio, Latin.]

1. Forgetfulness; cessation of remembrance.

Water-drops have worn the stones of Troy,
And blind oblivion swallow'd cities up,
And mighty states characterless are graced
To dusty nothing. *Shakef. Troil. and Cressida.*

Thou shouldst have heard many things of worthy memory,
Which now shall die in oblivion, and thou return unexperienced
to thy grave. *Shakef. Taming of the Shrew.*

Knowledge is made by oblivion, and to purchase a clear
and warrantable body of truth, we must forget and part with
much we know. *Brown's Vulgar Err. Pref.*

Can they imagine, that God has therefore forgot their
sins, because they are not willing to remember them? Or
will they measure his pardon by their own oblivion. *South.*

Among our crimes oblivion may be set;

But 'tis our king's perfection to forget. *Dryden.*

2. Amnely; general pardon of crimes in a state.

By the act of oblivion, all offences against the crown, and
all particular trespasses between subject and subject, were pardoned,
remitted, and utterly extinguished. *Davies.*

OBLIVIOUS. *adj.* [obliviosus, Latin.] Causing forgetfulness.

Raze out the written troubles of the brain,
And with some sweet oblivious antidote
Cleanse the stuff'd bosom. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

The British souls
Exult to see the crouching ghosts descend
Unnumber'd; well aveng'd, they quit the cares
Of mortal life, and drink th' oblivious lake. *Philips.*

Oh born to see what none can see awake!
Behold the wonders of th' oblivious lake. *Pope's Dunci.*

OBLONG. *adj.* [oblong, Fr. oblongus, Latin.] Longer than
broad; the same with a rectangle parallelogram, whose sides
are unequal. *Harr.*

The best figure of a garden I esteem an oblong upon a de-
fcent. *Temple's Miscell.*

Every particle, supposing them globular or not very oblong,
would be above nine million times their own length from any
other particle. *Bentley's Sermons.*

OBLONGLY. *adv.* [from oblong.] In an oblong direction.

The surface of the temperate climates is larger than it
would have been, had the globe of our earth or of the plan-
ets, been either spherical, or oblongly spherical. *Cheyne.*

OBLONGNESS. *n. f.* [from oblong.] The state of being oblong.

O'BLQUY. *n. f.* [obliquus, Lat.]

1. Cenorious speech; blame; slander; reproach.

Reasonable moderation hath freed us from being deservedly
subject unto that bitter kind of obloquy, whereby as the church
of Rome doth, under the colour of love towards those things
which be harmless, maintain extremely most hurtful corrup-
tions; so we peradventure might be upbraided, that under
colour of hatred towards those things that are corrupt, we
are on the other side as extreme, even against most harm-
less ordinances. *Hosker, b. iv. f. 14.*

Here new aspersions, with new obloquies,
Are laid on old deserts. *Daniel's Civil War.*

Canst thou with impious obloquy condemn
The just decree of God, pronounce'd and sworn? *Milton.*

Shall names that made your city the glory of the earth, be
mentioned with obloquy and detraction? *Addison.*

Every age might perhaps produce one or two true genius,
if they were not sunk under the censure and obloquy of plod-
ding, servile, imitating pedants. *Swift.*

2. Cause of reproach; disgrace. Not proper.

My chastity's the jewel of our house,
Bequeathed down from many ancestors;
Which were the greatest obloquy it th' world
In me to lose. *Shakespeare's All's well that ends well.*

OBMUTE'SCENCE. *n. f.* [from obmutescere, Latin.] Loss of speech.

A vehement fear often produceth obmutescence. *Brown.*

OBNOXIOUS. *n. f.* [obnoxius, Latin.]

1. Subject.

I propound a character of justice in a middle form, be-
tween the speculative discourses of philosophers, and the
writings of lawyers, which are tied and obnoxious to their
particular laws. *Bacon's Holy War.*

2. Liable to punishment.

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All are obnoxious, and this faulty land,
Like fainting Hester, does before you stand,
Watching your sceptre.

We know ourselves obnoxious to God's severe justice, and that
he is a God of mercy and hatred sin; and therefore that we
might not have the least suspicion of his unwillingness to for-
give, he hath sent his only begotten son into the world, by
his dismal sufferings and cursed death, to expiate our offences.
Calamy's Sermons.

Thy name, O Varus, if the kinder pow'rs
Preserve our plains, and shield the Mantuan towers,
Obnoxious by Cremona's neighb'ring crime,
The wings of swans, and stronger pinion'd rhyme
Shall raise aloft. *Dryd.*

3. Liable; exposed.

Long hostility had made their friendship weak in itself,
And more obnoxious to jealousy and distrust. *Hayward.*

But what will not ambition and revenge
Descend to? who aspires, must down as low
As high he soar'd; obnoxious first or last,
To basest things. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

To dew's obnoxious on the grassy floor. *Dryden.*

OBNOXIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from obnoxius.] Subjection; liable-
ness to punishment.

OBNOXIOUSLY. *adv.* [from obnoxius.] In a state of subjec-
tion; in the state of one liable to punishment.

To OBNUBILATE. *v. a.* [obnubilo, Latin.] To cloud; to
obscure.

O'BOLE. *n. f.* [obolus, Lat.] In pharmacy, twelve grains. *Boyl.*

OBREPTION. *n. f.* [obreptio, Latin.] The act of creeping on.

To OBROGATE. *v. a.* [obrogo, Lat.] To proclaim a con-
trary law for the dissolution of the former. *Dia.*

OBSCENE. *adj.* [obscene, Fr. obscenus, Latin.]

1. Immodest; not agreeable to chastity of mind; causing low
ideas.

Chemos th' obscene dread of Moab's sons. *Milton.*

Words that were once chaste, by frequent use grow obscene
and uncleanly. *Watts's Logic.*

2. Offensive; disgusting.

A girdle foul with grease binds his obscene attire. *Dryden.*

Home as they went, the sad discourse renew'd,
Of the relentless dame to death purfu'd. *Dryden.*

And of the fight obscene so lately view'd.

3. Inauspicious; ill omened.

Care shuns thy walks, as at the cheerful light
The groaning ghosts, and birds obscene take flight. *Dryd.*

It is the sun's fate like your's, to be displeasing to ovals
and obscene animals, who cannot bear his lustre. *Pope's Let.*

OBSCENELY. *adj.* [from obscene.] In an impure and unchaste
manner.

OBSCENENESS. *n. f.* [obscenitas, Fr. from obscene.] Impurity of
thought or language; unchastity; lewdness.

Mr. Cowley asserts plainly, that obscenity has no place in
wit. *Dryden.*

Those fables were tempered with the Italian severity, and
free from any note of infamy or obscenity. *Dryden.*

Thou art wickedly devout.

In Tiber ducking thrice by break of day,
To wash th' obscenities of night away. *Dryden.*

No pardon vile obscenity should find,
Tho' wit and art conspire to move your mind. *Pope.*

OBSCURATION. *n. f.* [obscuratio, Lat.]

1. The act of darkening.

As to the sun and moon, their obscuration or change of
colour happens commonly before the eruption of a fiery moun-
tain. *Burns.*

2. A state of being darkened.

OBSCURE. *adj.* [obscurus, Fr. obscurus, Latin.]

1. Dark; unenlightened; gloomy, hindring light.

Who's curish his father or mother, his lamp shall be put
out in obscure darkness. *Prov. xx. 20.*

Who shall tempt with wand'ring feet
The dark unbottom'd infinite abyss,
And thro' the palpable obscure find out
His uncouth way? *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

2. Living in the dark.

The obscure bird clamour'd the live-long night. *Shakef.*

3. Not easily intelligible; abstruse; difficult.

I explain some of the most obscure passages, and those
which are most necessary to be understood, and this accord-
ing to the manner wherein he used to express himself. *Dryd.*

4. Not noted; not observable.

He says, that he is an obscure person; one, I suppose, that
is in the dark. *Atterbury.*

To OBSCURE. *v. a.* [obscurare, Latin.]

1. To darken; to make dark.

Sudden the thunder blackens all the skies,
And the winds whistle, and the furies roll
Mountains on mountains, and obscure the pole. *Pope.*

2. To

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2. To make less visible.
They are all couched in a pit hard by Heme's oak, with
obscured lights; which at the very instant of Falstaff's and
our meeting, they will at once display to the night. *Shakef.*

What must I hold a candle to my flames?

They in themselves, good sooth, are too, too light.

Why, 'tis an office of discovery, love. *Shakef. M. of Venice.*

And I should be obscure'd.

Thinking by this retirement to obscure himself from God,
he infringed the omniscience and essential ubiquity of his
maker. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

3. To make less intelligible.

By private consent it hath been used in dangerous times
to obscure writing, and make it hard to be read by others not
acquainted with the intrigue. *Holder.*

There is scarce any duty which has been so obscured by the
writings of learned men, as this. *Wake.*

4. To make less glorious, beautiful, or illustrious.

Think'st thou, vain spirit, thy glories are the same,

And feest not now by thy ungrateful pride,

That shows me what thy faded looks did hide. *Dryden.*

OBSCURELY. *adv.* [from obscure.]

1. Not brightly; not luminously.

2. Out of light; privately; without notice; not conspicuously.

Such was the site of this prodigious fire,
Which in mean buildings first obscurely bred,
From thence did soon to open streets aspire. *Dryden.*

There live retir'd,

Content thyself to be obscurely good. *Addison's Cato.*

Let him go, pursued by silent wrath,

Meet unexpected daggers in his way,
And in some distant land obscurely die. *Irene.*

3. Not clearly; not plainly.

OBSCURENESS. *n. f.* [obscuritas, Lat. obscuritas, Fr.]

OBSCURITY. *n. f.* [obscuritas, Lat. obscuritas, Fr.]

1. Darknes; want of light.

Lo! a day of darkness and obscurity, tribulation and an-
guish, upon the earth. *Esther xi. 8.*

Should Cynthia quit thee, Venus, and each star,
It would not form one thought dark as mine are:

I could lend them th' obscurity now, and say,
Out of myself there should be no more day. *Donne.*

2. Unnoticed state; privacy.

You are not for obscurity design'd,

But, like the sun, must cheer all human kind. *Dryd.*

3. Darknes of meaning.

Not to mention that obscurity that attends prophetic rap-
tures, which yet are so uneasy to be satisfactorily understood
by our imperfect intellects, that let them be delivered in the
clearest expressions, the notions themselves will yet appear
obscure. *Boyle on Colours.*

That this part of sacred scripture had difficulties in it:
many causes of obscurity did readily occur to me. *Lake.*

What lies beyond our positive idea towards infinity, lies
in obscurity, and has the indeterminate confusion of a nega-
tive idea, wherein I know I do not comprehend all I would,
it being too large for a finite capacity. *Lake.*

OBSCURATION. *n. f.* [obscuratio, from obscure, Lat.] Intreaty;
supplication.

That these were comprehended under the sacra, is mani-
fest from the old form of obscuration. *Sillingsfleet.*

OBSCURITE. *n. f.* [obscuritas, French.] I know not whether
this word be not anciently mistaken for exequies, exequies,
Latin: this word, however, is apparently derived from ob-
sequium.

1. Funeral rites; funeral solemnities.

There was Dorilus valiantly requiting his friends help, in
a great battle deprived of life, his obscurities being not more
solemnized by the tears of his partakers, than the blood of
his enemies. *Sidney, b. ii.*

Fair Juliet, that with angels doth remain,
Accept this latest favour at my hand;

That living honour'd thee, and being dead,
With funeral obscurities adorn thy tomb. *Shakef.*

These tears are my sweet Rutland's obscurities.

I spare the widows tears, their woful cries,
And howling at their husbands obscurities;

How Thebes at these funerals did affix,
And with what gifts the mourning dames dismiss. *Dryden.*

His body shall be royally interr'd,

I will, myself,

Be the chief mourner at his obscurities.

Alas! poor Poll, my Indian talker dies,

Go birds and celebrate his obscurities. *Dryden.*

2. It is found in the singular, perhaps more properly.

Or tune a song of victory to me,

Or to thyself, sing thine own obscurity. *Creech.*

Him I'll solemnly attend,

With silent obscurity and funeral train,
Home to his father's house. *Milton's Agonistes.*

OBS

OBSEQUIOUS. *adj.* [from obsequium, Latin.]

1. Obedient; compliant; not resisting.

Adore not to the rising son, that you forget the father, who
raised you to this height; nor be you so obsequious to the fa-
ther, that you give just cause to the son to suspect that you
neglect him. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*

At his command th' up-rooted hills retir'd
Each to his place; they heard his voice, and went
Obsequious. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

I follow'd her; she what was honour knew,
And with obsequious majesty, approv'd
My pleaded reason. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. viii.*

A genial cherishing heat acts so upon the fit and obsequi-
ous matter, as to organize and fashion it according to the
exigencies of its own nature. *Boyle.*

His servants weeping,

Obsequious to his orders, bear him hither. *Add. Cato.*

The vote of an assembly, which we cannot reconcile to
public good, has been conceived in a private brain, afterwards
supported by an obsequious party. *Swift.*

2. In Shakespeare it seems to signify, funeral; such as the rites
of funerals require.

Your father lost a father;

That father his; and the survivor bound
In filial obligation, for some term,
To do obsequious sorrow. *Shakef. Hamlet.*

OBSEQUIOUSLY. *adv.* [from obsequious.]

1. Obediently; with compliance.

They rise, and with respectful awe,

At the word giv'n, obsequiously withdraw. *Dryden.*

We cannot reasonably expect, that any one should readily
and obsequiously quit his own opinion, and embrace ours with
a blind resignation. *Locke.*

2. In Shakespeare it signifies, with funeral rites; with reverence
for the dead.

I a while obsequiously lament
The untimely fall of virtuous Lancaster. *Shakef. R. III.*

OBSEQUIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from obsequious.] Obedience; com-
pliance.

They apply themselves both to his interest and humour,
with all the arts of flattery and obsequiousness, the surest and
the readiest ways to advance a man. *South's Sermons.*

OBSEQUIOUSLY. *adv.* [from obsequious, Lat.] Remarkable; emi-
nent; such as may deserve notice.

They do bury their dead with obsequious ceremonies. *Abbott.*

These proprieties affixed unto bodies from considerations
deduced from east, west, or those observable points of the
sphere, will not be justified from such foundations. *Brown.*

I took a just account of every observable circumstance of
the earth, stone, metal, or other matter, from the surface
quite down to the bottom of the pit, and entered it carefully
into a journal. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

The great and more observable occasions of exercising our
courage, occur but seldom. *Rogers.*

OBSEQUIOUSLY. *adv.* [from obsequious.] In a manner worthy
of note.

It is prodigious to have thunder in a clear sky, as is ob-
servably recorded in some histories. *Brown's Vulgar Err.*

OBSEQUIANCE. *n. f.* [obsequance, Fr. obsequio, Latin.]

1. Respect; ceremonial reverence.

In the wood, a league without the town,
Where I did meet thee once with Helena,
To do observance on the morn of May.
Arcite left his bed, resolv'd to pay
Observance to the month of merry May. *Dryden.*

2. Religious rite.

Some represent to themselves the whole of religion as con-
sisting in a few easy observances, and never lay the least re-
straint on the business or diversions of this life. *Rogers.*

3. Attentive practice.

Use all th' observance of civility,
Like one well studied in a sad ostent
To please his grandam. *Shakef. M. of Venice.*

If the divine laws were proposed to our observance, with
no other motive than the advantages attending it, they would
be little more than an advice. *Rogers, Sermon 1.*

4. Rule of practice.

There are other strict observances;

As, not to see a woman. *Shakef. L. Labour's Lost.*

5. Careful obedience.

We must attend our creator in all those ordinances which
he has prescribed to the observance of his church. *Rogers.*

6. Observation; attention.

There can be no observation or experience of greater cer-
tainty, as to the increase of mankind, than the strict and
vigilant observance of the calculations and registers of the bills
of births and deaths. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

7. Obedient regard.

Having had such experience of his fidelity and observance
abroad, he found himself engaged in honour to support him.
Wotton.